

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph on page 9, beginning at line 12, with the following:

As noted above, a holder that is removably attached to a transport or conveyor system is provided in conjunction with the analyzer. Three components including a probe tip dispenser, a fluid supply section (e.g., a sample reservoir) and test element recess (shown as reference no. 53 in Figure 2) are included as part of the holder. The components are aligned on the holder such that they will be in the same line of travel (or the same centerline) as each other. That is, each component will intersect the same x, y coordinates as the other components (see Figure 4). There may be some variability depending on the height of the component in the vertical "z" direction. In a preferred embodiment when the component conveyor is a rotor, the removable holder is in the shape of a sector (as viewed from the top) that sits on the rotor. Two of the sidewalls are arcuate in shape (with the inner sidewall facing the center of the rotor being shorter) and the other two sidewalls (or endwalls) are straight. Of course, if the transport system is linear, the removable holder may be in the shape of a rectangle.

Please replace the paragraph on page 13, beginning at line 24, with the following:

A test element can be located in the test element recess of the removable holder. The test element can be a slide containing the reagents necessary for the analysis, the so-called dry-slide technology as described in U.S. Patent No. 4,797,257 or a cup-shaped well or test reaction container as described in U.S. Patent No. 5,441,895 (these are designated as block box 54 in Figure 1), which are incorporated by reference in their entireties. The test element can also be the so-called test strip chemistry.

Please replace the paragraph on page 14, beginning at line 3, with the following:

A test element holder (i.e., a genus of cartridge 23 as shown in the Figures), which can also be located in the test element recess, contains test elements to be dispensed. Typically this would include multiple test elements, however, in some embodiments, such as wells for a wet analysis, it can be envisioned that a single test element may be employed. The holder can also be termed a cassette. The holder includes a body portion for holding at least one test element and a guide adapted to receive a probe to position the probe in a desired registration with the test element. Preferably, the test element holder includes a recess for holding the test elements and a cover for the test element or other fluid source being acted upon by the probe. Suitable cassettes are described in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,142,863 and 4,512,952, both incorporated by reference in their entireties.

Please replace the paragraph on page 18, beginning at line 24, with the following:

At this point, if incubation is required, the test element containing the sample, can be incubated. To accomplish this, the test element is transferred to the inner rotor by the test element transfer mechanism and incubated (such incubators are well known in the art and are depicted as black box 52 in Figure 1), while the outer reagent rotor continues the function of transporting sample and test elements into registration with the stationary probe. After incubation, the sample can be optionally washed, once again, by moving a supply of liquid wash into registration with the stationary probe. After washing, the sample can be transferred to a spectrometer or other analyzer (such analyzers are well known in the art and are shown by black box 51 in Figure 1) to have its signal measured. On chemiluminescent applications where a signal reagent is needed, once again, a supply of signal reagent is moved into registration with the probe to be aspirated and then dispensed onto the washed sample. After completion of the analysis, the test element can be disposed of. To accomplish this, the second

ring is brought into registration with the waste collection container on the first ring and ejected into the waste collection container with the test element dispense mechanism. Likewise, the outer reagent rotor can rotate the waste container into alignment with the stationary probe and receive the used probe tip(s).